



FIRST CHURCH Siloam Springs

A United Methodist Congregation

Dear First Church Siloam Springs Family,

As a follow-up to my Special Pastor's Note from September 21, 2022, I want to share more about Next Steps for our congregation.

First, as our Next Methodism Task Force shared in their report which can be found [HERE](#) and in their briefing to the congregation last Sunday, our church is committed to remaining a Methodist expression of faith. While this church has belonged to four different Methodist denominations in its history, we have always been Methodist. It is core to our identity and has been a part of who we have been since the first religious services in Simon Sager's Cabin dating back to 1834.

Second, as I shared in my last communication, we are holding a series of gatherings where people can learn more about the Global Methodist Church (GMC), which is the pathway recommended by the Next Methodism Task Force and adopted by our Church Council. To learn more about the GMC, please visit their [website](#). This **Sunday, October 2nd at 4:00 PM** Rev. Dr. Leah Hidde-Gregory, who serves as Chair of the Transitional Leadership Council of the Global Methodist Church will join us via Zoom and offer a **presentation on the GMC and Q&A**. You have two ways in which you can participate. You are welcome to attend the gathering in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 pm (Doors open at 3:30 PM with refreshments) or you may join via Zoom [HERE](#).

Third, on **Sunday, October 9th at 11:00 AM**, following our morning Worship Service, we will hold a **Congregational Meeting and Vote** where members of the Next Methodism Task Force will be on hand to answer questions and then we will take a vote as a congregation on a motion to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church upon completion of our disaffiliation from the UMC. All persons who are professing members of this local church will be permitted to vote if physically present at the time of the meeting or if attending online via the livestream. Those attending online will be permitted to register their vote via the chat feature. Our annual church picnic will follow our meeting. I hope you will make plans to be a part of this important congregational meeting and vote.

Finally, I recognize that some may not wish to continue their membership with this church following its disaffiliation which is still subject to ratification by the Arkansas Annual Conference meeting in special session on November 19, 2022. The default position for all members is to remain United Methodist. If you wish to have your name removed from the local church membership roll and remain United Methodist, please contact the church office at 479-524-6111 or admin@firstchurchsiloam.com by October 15, 2022 and your name will be removed from the local church membership roll and your name will be forwarded to the Arkansas Annual Conference for transfer to another United Methodist Church to be determined at a later date on the date of disaffiliation which is anticipated to occur before the end of 2022.

